

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 SAM-01 /143 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2939

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 618

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF KING HASSAN'S AUG 20 SAHARA SPEECH

REFERENCE: RABAT 3973

1. KING'S AUG 20 SPEECH (SUMMARIZED REFTEL) CONTINUES FIRM GOM LINE ON SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION. AS IN HIS LAST PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT JULY 9, HIS DEMEANOR AND TONE WERE SEVERE THROUGHOUT AND HE AGAIN EMPLOYED DEVICE OF SPEAKING IN DIALECTICAL ARABIC WHEN MAKING HIS MOST IMPORTANT POINTS. HE PULLED OUT A WIDE ARRAY OF NATIONALIST ORATORICAL STOPS AND EQUATED CURRENT SAHARA CAMPAIGN WITH MOROCCO'S STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. AS IN PAST, HE STRESSED HIS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING HIS AIMS THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, BUT MADE DIRECT THREAT TO RESORT TO OTHER METHODS IF NECESSARY. RECENT TROOP MOVEMENTS TOWARDS SOUTH SERVE TO GIVE CONCRETE MEANING TO HIS WORDS. DATT ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF MOROCCAN ARMY'S COMBAT STRENGTH IS NOW EITHER
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DEPLOYED IN REGION OR ON THE WAY THERE.

2. MOST INTERESTING CONCRETE POINTS IN SPEECH ARE CHANGED MOROCCAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS REFERENDUM AND CITING OF WEST IRIAN EXAMPLE AS APPLICABLE TO SAHARA PROBLEM. IN PAST, GOM PRONOUNCEMENTS SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE IMPLICITLY THAT INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE OPTION IN REFERENDUM PROVIDED THAT SAHARAN REFUGEES NOW LIVING IN MOROCCO WERE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN VOTE. NOW, INDEPENDENCE CAN NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED AS AN OPTION IN MOROCCAN VIEW.

3. WEST IRIAN EXAMPLE NATURALLY APPEALING TO MOROCCANS, PARTICULARLY WHERE SPANISH ADMINISTRATION TO BE WITHDRAWN AS KING INSISTED. MOROCCANS WOULD CERTAINLY BE ANXIOUS TO PLAY SAME SORT OF ROLE IN PREPARING SAHARA'S FUTURE AS INDONESIANS DID IN WEST IRIAN. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT IDEA OF HAVING UN-SPONSORED MEDIATOR INVOLVED IN QUESTION APPEALS TO GOM (AND IT WAS PERHAPS WITH SOME CALCULATION THAT KING SPECIFICALLY NAMED BUNKER IN THAT CONNECTION).

4. AT THIS POINT, IT APPEARS TO US THAT, AT SOME TIME FOLLOWING OSMAN'S AND LARAKI'S VISIT TO MADRID AUGUST 12-13, GOS INFORMED MOROCCANS OF ITS DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH ANNOUNCEMENT SOON ON REFERENDUM. KING, WHO HAD PERHAPS BELIEVED THAT OPENING OF DIALOGUE WITH SPANISH PRESAGED IMMINENT SPANISH CONCESSIONS, MAY HAVE INTERPRETED THIS AS SIGNALING CONTINUED SPANISH INFLEXIBILITY. HIS REACTION MAY HAVE BEEN TO RECAST SPEECH TO REFLECT TOUGHER LINE, THEREBY REAFFIRMING TO MADRID THAT HE WOULD USE ALL MEANS AT HIS DISPOSAL TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES. (HE IMPLIED THAT, HAD HE NOT LEARNED OF SPANISH INTENTION TO ANNOUNCE REFERENDUM, HIS SPEECH WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS TOUGH.) ANOTHER POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION, LESS LIKELY IN OUR VIEW, IS THAT SPANISH HAVE GIVEN MOROCCANS SOME SIGNAL THAT THEY ARE IN FACT WILLING TO ENTER SERIOUS BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON SAHARA'S FUTURE AND THAT SPEECH IS INTENDED AS OPENING SALLY FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ON BALANCE, WE SEE SPEECH AS RAISING KING'S STAKE IN SAHARA CAMPAIGN AND AS FURTHER REDUCING HIS ABILITY TO MAKE FUTURE COMPROMISES SETTling FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN REVERSION

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OF CONTROL OF ENTIRE TERRITORY TO GOM.
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